

SAFETY ON THE LINE

A service of the NASA KSC Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate

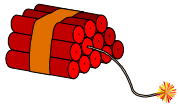
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"Was there something I was supposed to do with my life?"

Rabbi Kushner

I was Lucky

Really Lucky! Several weeks ago, I was mowing our lawn starting with only a half tank of gas. With only a minute of mowing left, the lawnmower stopped running; it had ran out of gas! I instead of **doing it safely** and waiting for the engine and adjoining area to cool off, my impatient side said "just fill her up." As I was filling the lawnmower from a one gallon gas can, it overflowed and spilled onto the hot engine parts. Watching the hot gas quickly evaporate, I suddenly realized that I wasn't holding a gas can, I was holding a gas bomb!



A one gallon can of gasoline could have the equivalent explosive power of one stick of dynamite. It was then that I realized the **POTENTIAL** of this **unsafe behavior** and realized that I was lucky that there was no fire or explosion. Years ago, a friend of mine wasn't as fortunate. As he was filling his hot lawnmower with gas in his garage, the gasoline ignited. He quickly dropped the gas can spilling the flaming gas onto the garage floor. The resulting gasoline fire had to be put out by the Rockledge Fire Department but not before it caused considerable smoke and fire damage to the garage. My recent experience taught me to pause, think, and **start practicing safer behaviors**. In the future, please

FILL YOUR LAWNMOWERS WITH GAS BEFORE YOU START MOWING THE GRASS, NOT DURING OR WHEN THE ENGINE IS HOT!

Three good Reasons to Wear a Seat Belt.

1. Seat belts hold you in your seat and reduce the chances of colliding with the windshield, dashboard, steering wheel, ceiling, doors, windows, or other passengers. Don't fool yourself by thinking you are strong enough and quick enough to brace yourself and avoid being thrown about. Research studies have shown that attempting to brace yourself is rarely successful.
2. If you are thrown from the vehicle, your chance for serious injury increases and your chance for survival will diminish. You could be run over by your own vehicle or by another vehicle. Your body could hit a tree, guardrail, sign, barricade, or other stationary object.
3. It's the law.

Cell Phone Calling on KSC

Let's say that you're on KSC and, witness an automobile accident. Who are you going to call from your cell phone? There are two numbers to call and both will get you in touch with our emergency fire and rescue personnel.

At the Kennedy Space Center, when using a cell phone, the emergency phone number is **861-7911** or **867-7911**.

This number will provide you a direct link to our emergency fire and rescue personnel who can respond quickly to your needs.



Call Bill Wilson at 867-2878 for more information.



Do you have questions, comments, or an article you would like to submit? Contact Marguerite or Alan at 867-3017/4558, fax number 867-3583, mail code EI-HF or e-mail them at "Safety on the Line" found in your global address list. Safety on the Line is also on the Web. Go to the KSC home page, then click on KSC internal page, then find us under NASA/KSC news.